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GOLD JOINS FEST RUSH

- India's gold demand shot up 47% in Sept quarter to 139 tn, up from 94.6 tn in year-ago period
- In terms of value, its demand swelled 37% to ₹59,330 crore, compared to ₹43,160 cr a year ago
- With retail demand bouncing back to pre-Covid levels, jewellery sales grew 48% at ₹41,030 crore, against ₹27,750 crore a year ago
- Demand is likely to peak in the festive / wedding season | P13

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If anyone asks 'OTP' - do not respond

Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan (second from left) celebrates his son Aryan Khan's bail, with his friends and legal team in Mumbai on Thursday | P11

Aryan Khan, two others may walk out of jail today

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE Bombay High Court on Thursday granted bail to actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan, 25 days after his arrest by the NCB in the cruise ship drugs haul case. The 23-year-old is expected to walk out of the Arthur Road jail on Friday after the HC gives its operative order with bail conditions. Justice N W Sambre also granted bail to co-accused Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun Dhamecha. "I could have given the order tomorrow, but I gave it today," the judge said.

After Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh concluded his arguments around 4.10 pm, Aryan's counsel Mukul Rohatgi started his rejoinder. But Justice Sambre cut short his arguments after 15 minutes, tossing the case papers towards his staff saying, "All three applications are allowed." P10

Centre working to push tourism along Pak, China borders: Minister

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

IN an ambitious move, India is planning to promote tourism along its borders with both Pakistan and China, with whom the country shares tenuous relations.

Areas where there is ceasefire on the India-China border and the Wagah Border will be promoted as tourism sites, Union Minister of State for Tourism Ajay Bhatt announced on Thursday.

Speaking on the sidelines of a two-day conference of tourism and culture ministers of southern regions, being held in the city, Bhatt said not many know of the Heap of Stones, the Om Linga or the Rock of Peace on the India-China border, and also about homes along either sides of the border which share friendly relations. Road connectivity is also being improved for tourists to reach Kailash Mansarovar, he said.

CONTINUED ON: P6

Expedite work at Hampi, State urges Union Government
Following several requests made to the Centre to expedite work at Hampi, Tourism Minister Anand Singh submitted a memorandum to the Union Tourism Ministry to take it up as a pilot project under the scheme. P4

Event to promote region, but where is Kannada?
On a day the people of Karnataka participated in the Kanandakkagi Naavu programme, the state's language was missing at the Tourism and Culture Ministers' Conference of the Southern Regions held in Bengaluru. P4

K'taka failed to give details of tourist sites, says official

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Centre on Thursday squarely blamed the state for the non-inclusion of any of the pilgrim destinations or tourism circuits under the Prasad and Swades Darshan schemes initiated by the Centre in 2014. Karnataka has been unable to furnish proper details, claimed Rupinder Brar, Additional Director General, Union Ministry of Tourism. She said the proposal to include Chamundi Hills in Mysuru is pending with the Centre for the last three years despite communication. P4

SC clears block on NEET UG results

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

IN a decision that brought relief to lakhs of candidates across the nation, the Supreme Court on Thursday directed the medical entrance exam conducting body, the National Testing Agency (NTA), to release the NEET 2021 result for undergraduate courses.

The court stayed a Bombay High Court order that put the results on hold, against which the NTA had sought relief.

It was hearing a matter regarding NEET re-exam for two candidates from Solapur, Vaishanavi Bhopali and Abhishek Shivaji. The NTA accepted that there was a mistake by invigilators resulting in a mismatch of answer sheets of six candidates.

The two students lost time on the exam day because of the mix-up. However, the other four students, completed their papers and got good scores, informed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai said, "We cannot delay results for 16 lakh students. We need to balance interests."

The bench said it will see what is to be done for the two students, adding it will examine their grievance in detail later. The court asked the NTA to come back with a plan for the aggrieved students.

Last week, a division bench of the Bombay High Court had asked the NTA to re-conduct the exam for the two candidates. P9

BEST WEEKEND GUIDE — WITH THIS ISSUE INDULGE — 36 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

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